IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A pier to be driven into ~~an earth~~ soil from a soil surface to support a structure to be mounted thereon, said pier including:

an auger member including a shaft that is rotated in a first direction to drive ~~the~~ said auger member into ~~the ground surface~~ said soil;

a soil compaction member to compact soil around ~~the~~ said shaft, said compaction member including a sleeve surrounding ~~the~~ said shaft and movable relative thereto longitudinally of ~~the~~ said shaft, and a transverse part extending laterally from and attached to ~~the~~ said sleeve to engage ~~the~~ said soil surrounding ~~the~~ said shaft so that, upon downward movement of ~~the~~ said compaction member longitudinally relative to ~~the~~ said shaft, said soil surrounding ~~the~~ said shaft rotates in unison with said shaft, ~~is compacted; and wherein~~ said sleeve ~~is~~ being operatively associated with said shaft so that rotation of said compaction member causes rotation of said shaft ~~to thereby~~ for said drive of said auger member; and

a drive assembly to move said compaction member relative to said shaft, said drive assembly including a threaded rod threadably associated with said shaft and operatively associated with said compaction mamber so that, upon rotation of said rod relative to said shaft, said compaction member is caused to move longitudinally relative to said shaft to compact said soil surrounding said shaft.

2.- 3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The pier of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein, said drive assembly includes a head attached to an upper portion of said rod and via which said rod is driven, and a nut mounted internally of said ~~sleeve~~ shaft and fixed thereto, with ~~the~~ said rod threadably engaged with ~~the~~ said nut so that rotation of ~~the~~ said head caused~~s~~ ~~the nut~~ said head nut to apply a force to said compaction member to cause said compaction member to move down said shaft.

5. (currently amended) The pier of claim 1, wherein said transverse portion is a plate, with said plate being provided with surfaces ~~they~~ that are engaged to cause rotation of said compaction member.

6. (currently amended) The pier of claim 5, wherein said plate is provided with a plurality of apertures which provide said surfaces.

7. (currently amended) The pier of claim 6, wherein said plate extends generally normal to said sleeve.

8. (currently amended) The pier of claim 7, wherein said shaft is square or rectangular in transverse ~~cross-section~~ cross section and said sleeve is square or rectangular in transverse cross section so as to be complimentary with respect to said shaft so as to prevent relative rotation ~~there~~between said shaft and sleeve ~~abut said rod~~.

9. (canceled)

10. (new) A pier to be driven into an earth surface to support a structure to be mounted thereon, said pier including:

an auger member including a shaft that is rotated in a first direction to drive the auger member into the ground surface;

a soil compaction member to compact soil surrounding the shaft, the compaction member including a sleeve surrounding the shaft and movable relative thereto longitudinally of the shaft, and a transverse part extending laterally from and attached to the sleeve to engage soil surrounding the shaft so that upon downward movement of the compaction member longitudinally relative to the shaft soil surrounding the shaft is compacted, said sleeve being operatively associated with said shaft so that the shaft and sleeve rotate in unison, so that upon rotation of said compaction member said shaft thereby drives said auger member into the soil; and

a drive assembly including a drive member associated with said compaction member said drive member being rotated relative to said shaft and compaction member to cause longitudinal movement of said compaction member relative to said shaft to compact the soil surrounding the shaft.

11. (new) The pier of claim 10, wherein said transverse portion is a plate, with said plate being provided with surfaces that are engaged to cause rotation of the compaction member.

12. (new) The pier of claim 11, wherein said surfaces are provided by apertures.

13. (new) The pier of claim 12, wherein said plate extends generally normal to said sleeve.

14. (new) The pier of claim 10, wherein said shaft is square or rectangular in transverse cross-section and said sleeve is of a complimentary transverse cross-section so as to engage said shaft so that the sleeve and shaft rotate in unison.

15. (new) The pier of claim 14, wherein said drive assembly includes a threaded rod engaged operatively associated with said compaction member so that upon rotation of said rod relative to said shaft said compaction member is caused to move longitudinally relative to said shaft.

16. (new) The pier of claim 15, wherein said drive assembly further includes a nut fixed to said shaft so as to be located internally thereof, with said rod rotatably engaged with said nut so that upon rotation of said rod relative to said shaft said compaction member is caused to move longitudinally relative to said shaft.